

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified application in view of the amendments made to the Specification and the claims, and the arguments presented herein. The following remarks state Applicant's bases for making this request and are organized according to the Examiner's Action by paragraph number.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner states that Claims 1 and 7 are presented for examination. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 2-6 and 8-37 have been canceled.

DRAWINGS

2. The Examiner states that objections of the drawings are withdrawn due to the previous amendment filed on October 13, 2004.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112

3. The Examiner states that Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that Claim 7 recites the limitation “said information” in line 2, and there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Applicant is amending Claim 7 to correct the insufficient antecedent bases by changing “said information” to “said execution time”. Applicant believes that Claim 7, as amended, is now definite and patentable.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

4. The Examiner states that Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over J.P. Patent No. 408228920A to Kikuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,255,630 to Barnes.

The Examiner then recites the Kikuchi teachings and believes that in Claim 1, paragraphs (a) and (b) are obvious from Kikuchi. However, Applicant has now amended Claim 1 to distinguish Claim 1 from Kikuchi. In particular, Claim 1 now calls for:

“A commercial fryer for cooking a food by using predetermined heating means, said commercial fryer comprising:

(a) means for setting a maintenance time of each of a plurality of maintenance items wherein a user arbitrarily sets a weekly or monthly time cycle of maintenance for executing each of said maintenance items and a calendar date for a standard date of said time cycle;

(b) means for tracking calendar dates and determining when said maintenance time for each of said plurality of maintenance items occurs;

(c) means for informing said user when each calendar date occurs for executing each one of said maintenance items set by said maintenance time setting means, said informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel of said commercial fryer; and

(d) means for displaying each one of said user informed maintenance items after said predetermined sign is displayed on said operating panel.”

In paragraph (a) of Claim 1, it now recites that “a user arbitrarily sets a weekly or monthly time cycle of maintenance for executing each of said maintenance items and a calendar date for a standard date of said time cycle;”. The user can arbitrarily set both the time cycle of maintenance and a calendar date for a standard date to start the maintenance time cycle. This capability is supported and described in the specification starting on page 11, line 9 and continuing to page 12, line 7. Kikuchi teaches setting up a cleaning execution time for the container prior to a reservation time for rice cooking whereas in the present invention

the time to perform a maintenance item can be arbitrarily set for anytime, not just prior to a cooking time. Therefore, Applicant believes that Claim 1, as amended, is not obvious from Kikuchi.

The Examiner states that Kikuchi fails to teach informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel of said cooking utensil informing a user when each calendar date occurs for executing the maintenance, and Kikuchi fails to teach displaying the user informed maintenance item after said predetermined sign is displayed. Further, the Examiner states that referring to Claim 7, Kikuchi fails to teach that after informing said user of the execution time, said information is automatically removed by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance items.

The Examiner then states that in regard to Claim 1, Barnes teaches a cooking appliance including cleaning operational modes (Column 2, line 54 to Column 3, line 12) and a display for indicating the cleaning modes (Column 5, lines 1-5). Further, in regard to Claim 7, the Examiner states that Barnes teaches that after informing said user of the time until start, said information is automatically removed by performing the corresponding one of said maintenance items (Column 8, lines 56-49 and Column 5, lines 1-5). Applicant finds that Barnes teaches a control system for a cooking appliance to display information for two cooking operations being performed, and it automatically waits a preset delay time period from a termination of a first cooking operation to automatically initiate a second cooking operation. Barnes further teaches the use of a visual alphanumeric display for containing information about successive cooking operations.

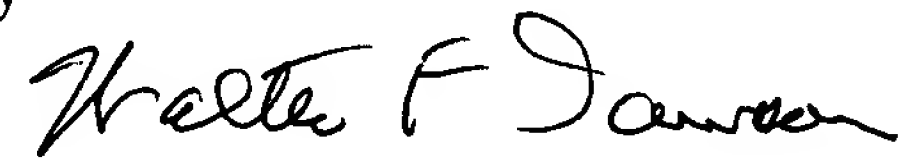
However, Applicant wishes to point out that even combining the teachings of Kikuchi and Barnes, Claim 1 (as amended) is not obvious from these references, i.e. the ability to arbitrarily set both a time cycle of maintenance for a particular week or month, and a calendar date for a standard start date of the maintenance time cycle, is not obvious from the cited references.

Applicant believes that Claim 1 and Claim 7, as amended, are not disclosed, described or suggested by Kikuchi in view of Barnes, and that Claims 1 and 7 are not obvious from such references, and they are patentable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that Claims 1 and 7, as amended, are now in condition for allowance and request that the foregoing amendment be entered and the case sent to issue.

If there are any questions, we urge the Examiner to call us. Please charge any costs in connection with this document to our Deposit Account No. 16-0875.

Respectfully Submitted,
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